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Sri P. Rangaswami Reddiar :—" May I know whether any excavations were made in the vicinity to see whether there were any deposits of gold or precious stones? "

The Hon. Dr. U. Krishna Rao :—" First of all, we must be satisfied whether what we have found contains gold or other precious materials. We have sent it for examination. As and when the report is received, we will consider the suggestion of the hon. Member."

Perintalmanna hospital in Malabar.

* 68 *Q.*—Sri O. Koran : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the management of the Perintalmanna hospital was taken over by the Government from the Malabar District Board; and

(*b*) what are the improvements that have been made in the hospital by the Government since then?

The Hon. Sri A. B. Shetty :—" (*a*) 19th November 1952.

" (*b*) No improvement has been made so far."

Sri O. Koran :—" May I know whether Government have any proposal to extend the building so as to accommodate a large number of patients? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. Shetty :—" Increase in the number of in-patients was seen only in the year 1953. The Director of Medical Services will have to send proposals for inclusion in the next buget regarding the increase in the bed strength of the hospital and employment of additional staff. The proposals will then be duly considered."

Sri M. Narayana Kurup :—" Demands are made to Government to take over Local Fund Hospitals so that they could make necessary improvements. Is it to discourage such a demand from the people that Government are making no improvements in the institutions which they had taken over? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. Shetty :—" No, Sir. As and when it is found necessary to increase the bed strength or to provide additional staff in these hospitals, proposals are made by the Director of Medical Services and they are considered in connection with Part II schemes for inclusion in the Budget."

Sri Kunhi Mohamed Shafee :—" May I know whether the Government have taken steps to implement the recommendations of the Director of Medical Services when he visited the hospital in the year 1950–51? When a question was put to the Hon. Minister during the last session, he gave an affirmative answer. May I know what has been done since then? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. Shetty :—" I cannot on this occasion say what question was put to me in the last session and what answer I gave."

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SRI O. KORAN :—" Is it not a fact that the medicines now supplied to the hospital are quite insufficient and if so what steps Government propose to take to supply more medicines? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I have no information to that effect, Sir."

Arecanut research stations.

* 69 *Q.*—SRI Y. MANJAYA SHETTY (on behalf of Sri M. S. Mogral) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many arecanut research stations have been established in the State so far;

(*b*) how many of them are situated in the districts of Malabar and South Kanara;

(*c*) the expenditure incurred in establishing them; and

(*d*) the nature of the work undertaken by them?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—(*a*) & (*b*) Only one Arecanut Research Station has been established in this State and it is situated at Vittal in South Kanara district.

" (*c*) The Station has been established under a scheme for the investigation of the stem-breaking disease of arecanut palm, sanctioned for a period of ten years from 1st August 1952 with the financial assistance from the Indian Central Arecanut Committee. The expenditure incurred on the scheme from 1st August 1952 to 31st December 1953 is Rs. 27,810–7–8.

" (*d*) Investigation for finding out the factors responsible for the stem-breaking of the arecanut palm and allied disease problems and their treatment are undertaken at this station."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" May I know on whose recommendation the site was chosen? Is it on the recommendation of this Government or Central Government? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I think the site was chosen on the recommendation of our own experts."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" Did the Arecanut Co-operative Marketing Association, Malabar, submit any memorandum and did they make any demand for a research station? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I would like to have notice, Sir."

Selection of headmasters for the District Board High Schools in Tiruchirappalli district.

* 70 *Q.*—SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there was any selection of Headmasters for the District Board High Schools in Tiruchirappalli district;